

Iron is ancient;
stainless steel is young.

Precisely when mankind first made use of iron remains a mystery. As early as 5000 B.C. small iron objects were used as burial offerings in the graves of Egyptian kings, but it was only in the middle of the eighteenth century that the conditions

necessary for

A modern company
with over 100 years of
experience.

Times Change-- Quality Remains

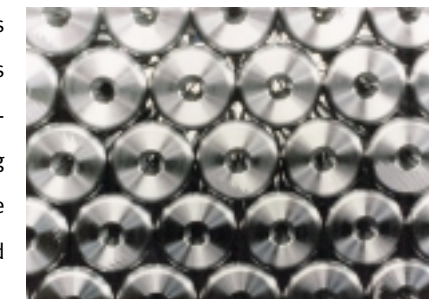
A “Seamless” Progression
Toward Success.

This motto was adopted by a team of experienced executives who, in order to ensure the long-term future of SBER, took over the company through a management buyout.

From the beginning the new owners have been committed to a clear and successful strategy based on offering customers a high level of flexibility, first-class service, the highest quality standards, and absolute responsibility. These objectives have resulted in the creation of a competitive company of optimal size. It is both small enough to react quickly and flexibly to the rapidly-changing international market, and large enough to meet specific customer needs as effectively as possible.

During 1999, as a further milestone in a successful development, SBER became part of Tubacex S.A., a company quoted at the stock exchange. This strategic position, using synergies within the group, will further strengthen the competitiveness of SBER.

Today, in the field of seamless stainless steel pipes, SBER ranks among the most important manufacturers in the world, continuing the tradition established by the entrepreneurs Schoeller and Bleckmann over 130 years ago.



ten years later, to the next important step: the production of seamless steel pipes.

Schoeller-Bleckmann was nationalized by the Republic of Austria in 1946. In the following years of economic improvement, the company's production capacity was greatly expanded through generous investments.

Competence in Stainless Steel.

The foundation for the production of seamless stainless steel pipes in Ternitz was laid in the early 1960's. The merger of the high-grade steel producers Schoeller-Bleckmann, Böhler, and Styria in 1975 to form the Vereinigte Edelstahlwerke AG (VEW) was dissolved at the end of the 1980's.

Since Jan. 1, 1991, Schoeller-Bleckmann Edelstahlrohr GmbH (SBER) has operated independently. Privatization of the company took place at the beginning of 1995.

In the nineteenth century the wholesale entrepreneur Alexander von Schoeller and the steel industrialist Johann Heinrich Bleckmann each established his own internationally recognized company. These two firms merged in 1924 to form Schoeller-Bleckmann Stahlwerke AG.

The talents of farsightedness and innovation -- success factors of all great enterprises -- led, just

the production of
alloyed steel had finally been created.

Pioneers of Success.

The history of the steel industry in the region of Ternitz reaches back to that same era. In Ternitz the processing of iron began as early as 1787.



SBER, Always and Everywhere.

SBER stainless steel pipes are found in the chemical and petrochemical industries as well as in power plants, industrial furnaces, and in mechanical engineering. The possible areas of use are practically limitless; even certain exclusive watches are framed in rings which are produced from pipes made in Ternitz.

As a mid-size company
we are very flexible.

Endless Possibilities

New Standards

are being set by SBER with regard to quality, perfect workmanship, and punctuality. The wide range of products fulfills all recognized norms and specifications, and SBER is known throughout the world for its high standard of quality.

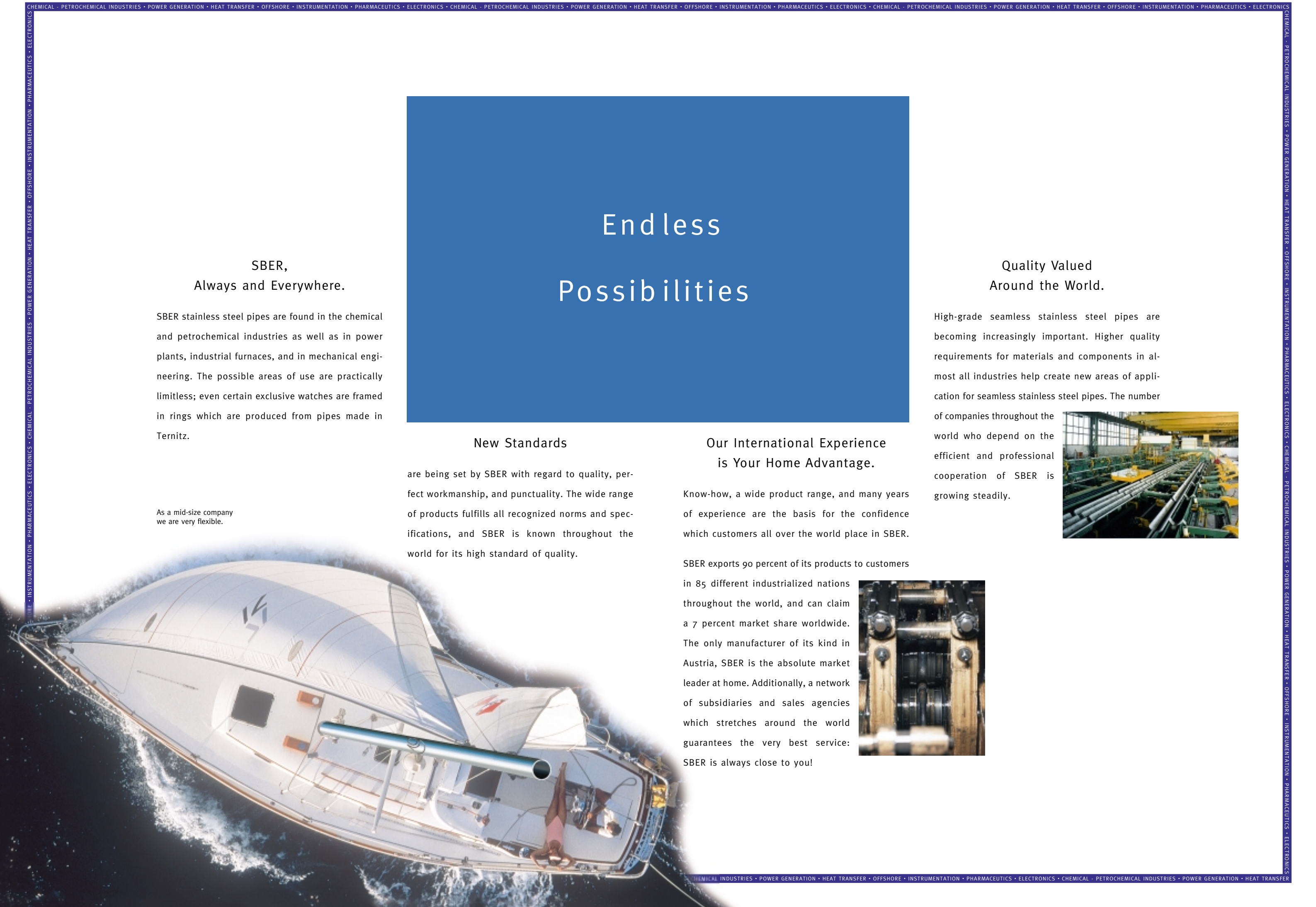
Our International Experience is Your Home Advantage.

Know-how, a wide product range, and many years of experience are the basis for the confidence which customers all over the world place in SBER.

SBER exports 90 percent of its products to customers in 85 different industrialized nations throughout the world, and can claim a 7 percent market share worldwide. The only manufacturer of its kind in Austria, SBER is the absolute market leader at home. Additionally, a network of subsidiaries and sales agencies which stretches around the world guarantees the very best service: SBER is always close to you!

Quality Valued Around the World.

High-grade seamless stainless steel pipes are becoming increasingly important. Higher quality requirements for materials and components in almost all industries help create new areas of application for seamless stainless steel pipes. The number of companies throughout the world who depend on the efficient and professional cooperation of SBER is growing steadily.



SBER Pipes can Take a Lot of Punishment.

This feature is essential because the pipes are constantly put to use where extreme conditions prevail, and where the safety of people and the trouble-free operation of plant and equipment must be ensured. SBER stainless steel pipes are made to withstand the greatest heat and the highest pressure; they are unaffected by acids and don't give corrosion a chance!

100 Steps to Perfection.

The manufacturing methods employed at SBER reflect state-of-the-art technology, and the company is certified under ISO 9000 quality assurance. Pro-

duction is carried out according to all international quality standards. A seamless stainless steel pipe can pass through as many as 100 production steps before taking on its final form and quality.



Some Pipes Like it Hot,

especially during the hot forming process where, at temperatures of up to 1,300 degrees Celsius, stainless steel pipes with a diameter of 60 - 250 mm and a wall thickness of 3 - 35 mm are produced. Here the extrusion process is applied, a method which has maintained worldwide acceptance in the production of high-alloy steel pipes for decades.



Always Up to Date

And Some Pipes Like it Cold,

because cold forming also has its advantages. First-class surface quality and dimensional stability can be achieved. Cold forming is also suitable for the production of very small sizes.



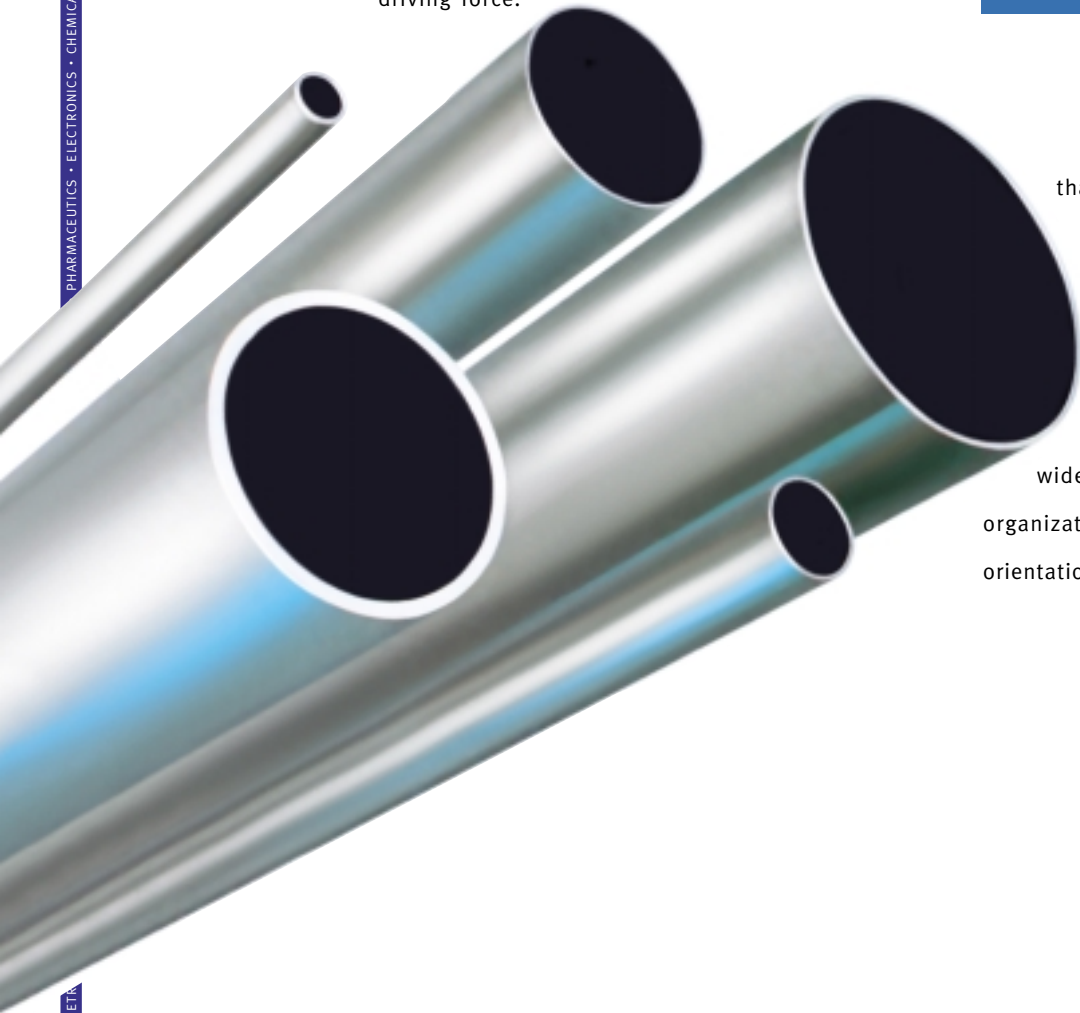
By employing the cold pilger process and drawing operations, pipes with diameters of 6 - 219.1 mm and wall thicknesses of 0.5 - 14.2 mm are produced. SBER also manufactures pipes with a ground or polished surface.

Optimal customer service is our highest priority.



Full-Speed into the Future.

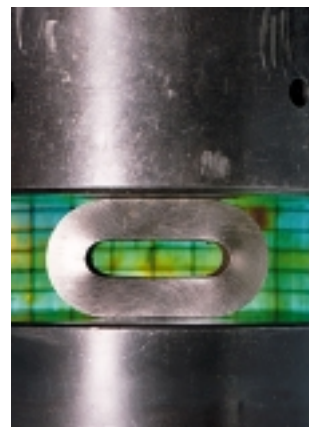
SBER is a company with a proud tradition and a strong orientation toward the future. Many years of experience in the production of seamless stainless steel pipes form the basis of its strength, and the dynamism of its innovative leadership is its driving force.



The Future has Already Begun

The Boss Wants to See You,

that is, any time you wish, because the most important goal at SBER is total customer satisfaction. You can discuss your needs directly with the responsible decision-maker without first having to overcome bureaucratic hurdles. The worldwide presence of the company and its lean organizational structure make this strong customer orientation possible.



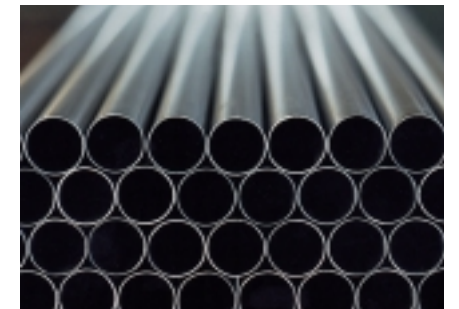
Less is More.

SBER's growth policy follows this principle. First priority is not to maximize turnover by merely increasing production capacity, but rather to concentrate on growth that is focused on optimizing product quality, efficiency, and productivity. In this way, SBER remains in a position where it is able to offer its customers tailor-made solutions.



Everything Remains in Motion,

in life just as in the international business world. Dynamic leadership is, therefore, one of the most important features of a company which intends to remain viable amidst growing competition. Great flexibility has made SBER a worldwide leader in the manufacture of seamless stainless steel pipes, and will remain a guiding principle for the future of Schoeller-Bleckmann Edelstahlrohr.





**SCHOELLER
BLECKMANN
EDELSTAHLROHR**
SEAMLESS · STAINLESS
NAHTLOS ZUM ERFOLG

Schoeller-Bleckmann Edelstahlrohr AG, A-2630 Ternitz/Austria, Rohrstraße 1, Telefon +43/2630/316-0
Fax +43/2630/36947, e-mail: office@sber.co.at, <http://www.sber.co.at>